JOHN A. GALE

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Statehood birthday party scheduled for Bassett

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale will host a Nebraska statehood birthday party in Bassett on March 19 to educate and entertain elementary school children.

The free, one-hour event is scheduled for 1 p.m. CST at the Rock County High School gym. The party is geared for third- to fifth-grade students.

Participating students will enjoy musical entertainment, sing-alongs, people in historical costumes and a birthday treat, as well as getting an opportunity to showcase their knowledge of Nebraska history.

Statehood birthday parties, which are a tradition of Gale's office, are designed to provide fun in an educational setting. "The parties are part of my civics education mission to encourage students to become good citizens," Gale said.

Gale will appear in costume as the character Cactus Jack at the party. Chris Sayre and David Seay will provide musical entertainment at the party.

"We've rarely held a statehood birthday party in north central Nebraska," Gale said. "The Bassett party presents a good opportunity to bring the event to that part of the state."

Schools from five counties have been invited to attend the party. To attend the event, classes need to make reservations by contacting Sharon Hambek at (402) 471-6044 or sos.events@nebraska.gov.

The party is sponsored by Gale, the Nebraska Humanities Council and the NEBRASKAland Foundation.

The party will observe the 145th anniversary of Nebraska becoming a state on March 1, 1867.